SOLE

APPLICATION FOR UNITED STATES PATENT

Oath and Petition

Being duly sworn, I, PHILOMENA E. KOPPELMAN depose and say that I am a citizen of United States of America residing at Hartford, Conn.; that I have read the foregoing specification and claims and I verily believe I am the original, first, and sole inventor of the invention or discovery in THIMBLE described and claimed therein; that I do not know and do not believe that this invention was ever known or used before my invention or discovery thereof, or patented or described in any printed publication in any country before my invention or discovery thereof, or more than one year prior to this application, or in public use or on sale in the United States for more than one year prior to this application; that this invention or discovery has not been patented in any country foreign to the United States on an application filed by me or my legal representatives or assigns more than twelve months before this application; and that no application for patent on this invention or discovery has been filed by me or my representatives or assigns in any country foreign to the United States, except as follows:

NONE

Wherefore I pray that Letters Patent be granted to me for the invention or discovery described and claimed in the foregoing specification and claims, and I hereby subscribe my name to the foregoing specifications and claims, oath, and this petition, this 17th day of June, 1970.

INVENTOR SIGN HERE → Inventor Philomena E. Koppelman

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Before me personally appeared Philomena E. Koppelman, *to me known to be the person described in the above application for patent, who signed the foregoing instrument in my presence, and made oath before me to the allegations set forth therein as being under oath, on the day and year aforesaid.*

Notary Public

[SEAL]

NOTARY IMPRESS SEAL HERE

My commission expires: My Commission Expires April 1,

This form may be executed only when attached to a complete application as the last page thereof

Sole Inventor

PHILOMENA E. KOPPELMAN
(one sheet of drawing)

THIMBLE

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A thimble made of a flexible and resilient material adapted to readily fit any size finger has a shield made of a rigid material fixed thereto, whereby the shield is adapted to be engaged by the end of a needle as the latter is pushed through an article being sewn.

SPECIFICATION

This invention relates to the art of sewing and more particularly to thimbles designed to conviently and comfortably fit any size finger. Known thimbles are clumsy and ill-fitting and there exists the problem of trying to find the size and shape of a thimble that will suitably fit the finger. For example, in order to retain a conventional, rigid thimble which is made of metal, a user has to keep the thimble finger bent at the first and second joint and cannot keep that finger close to the material at least not as close as the rest of the fingers. Further, the hand is not as free to handle the material.

Accordingly, an object of the present invention is to provide a thimble which will readily fit any size finger.

Another object is to provide a thimble that is made of a resilient and flexible material so that it will snugly fit on any finger and will be retained on such finger without having to bend the finger or without having to utilize outside forces to hold it on.

A further object is to provide a thimble made of a flexible and resilient material which has affixed thereto a shield of rigid material whereby the shield is used to engage the needle and protect the user's finger.

Yet a further object is to provide a thimble made of a non-rigid material and having affixed thereto a shield of rigid material located to be positioned over the ball of the finger when the thimble is worn by the user.

It is still a further object of the invention to provide a thimble which will conform closely to the configuration of the extremity of the finger.

Further objects and advantages will be apparent from the following description taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings wherein:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a hand showing a thimble fitted thereon.

Figure 2 is an elevational view of the thimble on a larger scale.

Figure 3 is a sectional view of the thimble showing the shield which is secured to the thimble.

Referring to the drawing, the illustrated embodiment shows a thimble 10 adapted to fit on the end of a person's finger. The thimble 10 may be made of various flexible and resilient materials so that it will fit any size finger. For example, it may be made of an elastic material such as rubber or the like. The material may be woven such as used in support hosiery or it may be of sheet material. The thimble may also be made of plastic or nylon and may have a weave which makes it stretchable. However the material or the weave used should be such that the thimble can be stretched to place it on the finger whereby once it is placed on the finger, the resiliency thereof will cause the thimble to hug the person's finger so that it will not fall off.

The aforesaid resilient materials are generally not compatible with the requirements needed in a thimble for pushing the end of the needle through material. Accordingly, the thimble of the present invention is provided with a shield 12 which may be suitably secured to the thimble by adhesive or the like. The shield 12 may be made of metal, plastic or other suitable material.

The shield 12 is located on the thimble so that it is disposed at the ball of the finger. Accordingly, when using the thimble, the user can have the end of the needle engage the shield to push the needle through while the rigid shield protects the user's finger.

From the above description it will be seen that, the thimble of the present invention will fit snugly on various size fingers so that the hand is completely free while at the same time, the thimble has a rigid shield to provide the necessary support for pushing the needle.

The shield 12 may have various configurations. For example, it may be circular or it may be oval. Also, the shield may be flat or it may have a slight curvature to more closely conform to the natural lines of the ball of the finger.

The thimble may have a longitudinal length to extend over the first joint or to extend further to the second joint. As may be desired, an intermediate material (e.g. felt) may be disposed between the thimble and the shield 12.

The shield may be provided with dimples or other irregularities 16 to facilitate engagement with the needle. As may be desired, the open end of the thimble may be reinforced as indicated at 14.

It is understood that minor variations from the form of the invention disclosed herein may be made without departure from the spirit and scope of the invention, and that the specifications and drawing are to be considered as merely illustrative rather than limiting.

What is claimed is:

1. A thimble adapted to be fitted on the extremity of the finger comprising an elongated cup-like element open at one end and adapted to receive a person's finger, said element being made of a material which is stretchable to be able to be fitted onto the person's finger, and a shield made of a rigid material affixed to said element and adapted to engage the end of a needle to push the latter.

2. A thimble according to claim 1, wherein said cup-like element is an elastic material.

3. A thimble according to claim 1, wherein said cup-like element is made of a woven material.

4. A thimble according to claim 1, wherein said cup-like element is made of a thin walled sheet material.

5. A thimble according to claim 1, wherein said shield is secured to said cup-like element by an adhesive.

6. A thimble according to claim 1, wherein said shield is made of metal.

7. A thimble according to claim 1, wherein said shield is made of plastic.

8. A thimble according to claim 1, wherein said sheild has an arcuate configuration adapted to conform to the curvature of the ball of a person's finger.

9. A thimble according to claim 1, wherein said shield has a configuration adapted to cover the ball of a person's finger.